

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, OEXC (KOVACEVIC, ZIVORAD)

SUBJECT: BELGRADE MAYOR'S VISIT TO US

REF: UELGRADE 819

1. DEPARTMENT DELIGHTED WITH MAYOR KOVACEVIC S EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN VISITING U.S. ON IVP GRANT, AND IS CONTACTING SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL AND U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS TO ASCERTAIN INTERESTS OF A MAJOR CITY OR CITIES IN ACTING AS NOMINAL OSTs FOR KOVACEVIC. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, WHETHER ANY SINGLE CITY WOULD BE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE ROLE AS SOLE SPONSOR WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENTIRE PROGRAM.

2. WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE FOR KOVACEVIC TO COME ALONE RATHER THAN LEAD DELEGATION OF MAYORS SINCE PARTICIPATION BY OTHER YUGOSLAV MAYORS WOULD MOST LIKELY DIFFUSE IMPACT, ADD TO PROTOCOL PROBLEMS AND INCREASE COSTS.

3. WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHEN MAYOR KOVACEVIC AVAILABLE FOR VISIT AND ALSO REQUEST EMBASSY CABLE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.

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PANTS FROM NEW YORK CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION VISIT TO

BELGRADE IN 1973.

4. WHILE NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, OR SAN FRANCISCO ARE OF COURSE POSSIBLE PROSPECTS AS HOST CITIES, DEPARTMENT THINKS MIGHT BE USEFUL TO APPROACH A CITY WITH SIZEABLE YUGOSLAV ETHNIC COMMUNITY. WE HAVE IN MIND PITTSBURGH WITH ITS GREAT INTEREST IN YUGOSLAVIA WHICH MIGHT WELL BE WILLING TO HOST KOVACEVIC FOR SEVERAL DAYS. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S REACTION, AND ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS OF POSSIBLE CITIES TO CONTACT.

5. ALSO, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS WILL BE MEETING IN MILWAUKEE JUNE 26-JULY 1, AND DEPT BELIEVES WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN INVITATION FROM THIS ORGANIZATION TO MAYOR KOVACEVIC TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS, AND RELATED SOCIAL AFFAIRS. SINCE THERE WILL BE OTHER FOREIGN MAYORS PRESENT, KOVACEVIC COULD NOT BE SINGLED OUT AS GUEST OF HONOR, BUT COULD WELL BE INCLUDED IN ACTIVITIES INVOLVING OTHER FOREIGN MAYORS. IN ADDITION, THIS WOULD GIVE KOVACEVIC EXPOSURE TO WHOLE SPECTRUM OF PROBLEMS WHICH U.S. MAYORS FACE. INGERSOLL

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